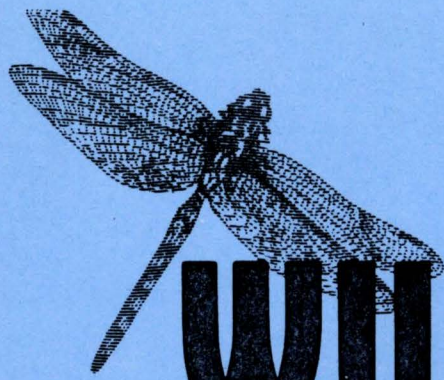
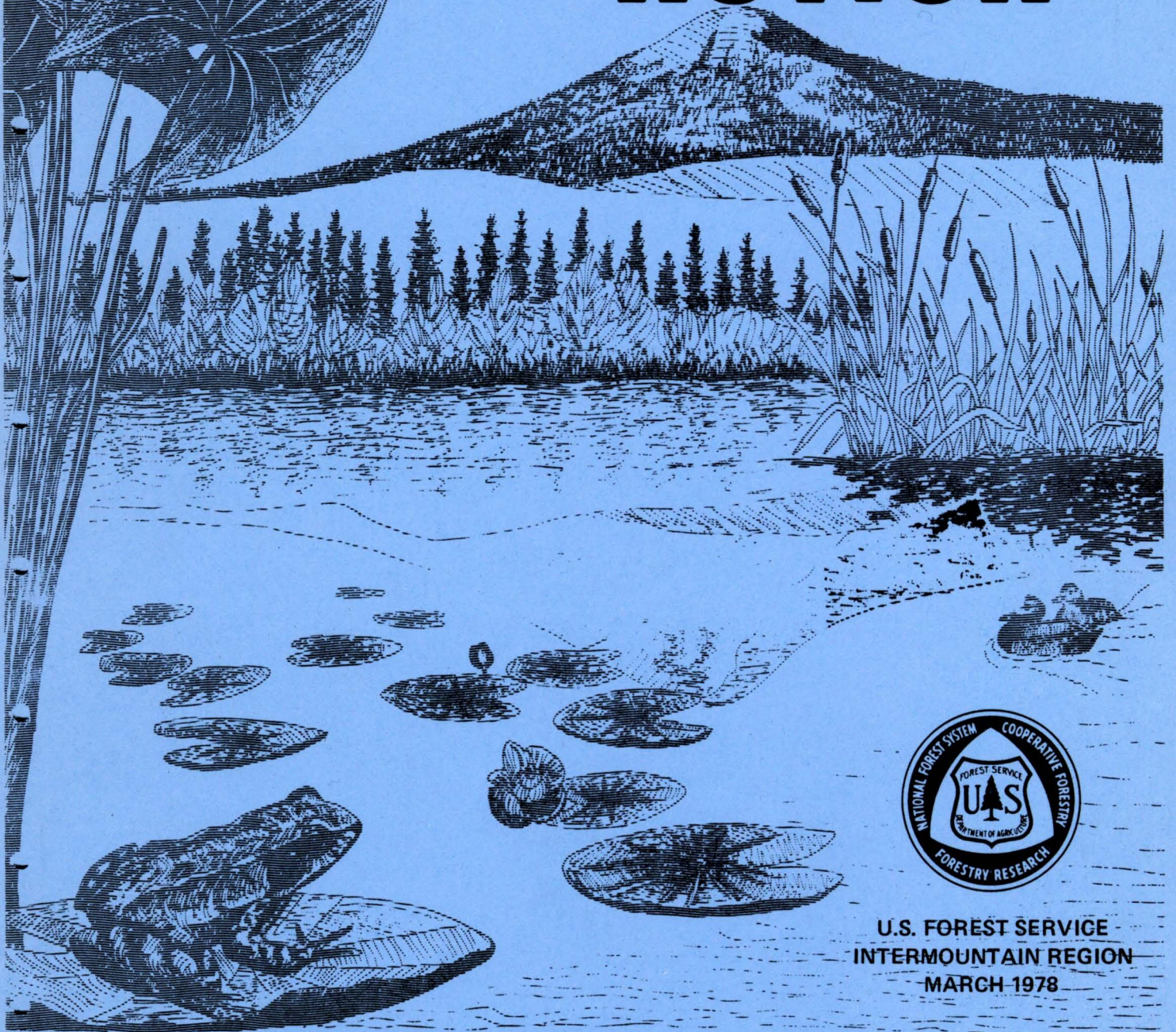




WILDLIFE ACTION



U.S. FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
MARCH 1978

In the beginning it was --

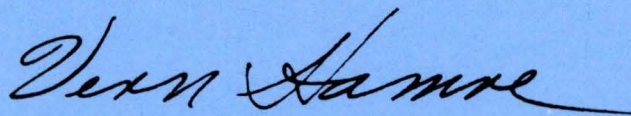
R A P W A F

In the beginning it was RAPWAF, a Regional Action Plan for Wildlife and Fisheries. It is the product of many people and the result, "Wildlife Action...", charts our course in Wildlife habitat management in the Intermountain Region.

Each of you should know and understand its contents and use it to guide you in the management of our many and varied wildlife habitat resources.

Cooperation with the various states is essential if we are to continue to provide quality wildlife and wildlife habitat on the National Forests.

The plan is ambitious and long overdue. Now that we have it let us get on with the job, meet the challenge, and work toward elevating wildlife to its proper perspective as one of the most important resources of the National Forests in the Intermountain Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vern Hamre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

VERN HAMRE
Regional Forester

C O N T E N T S

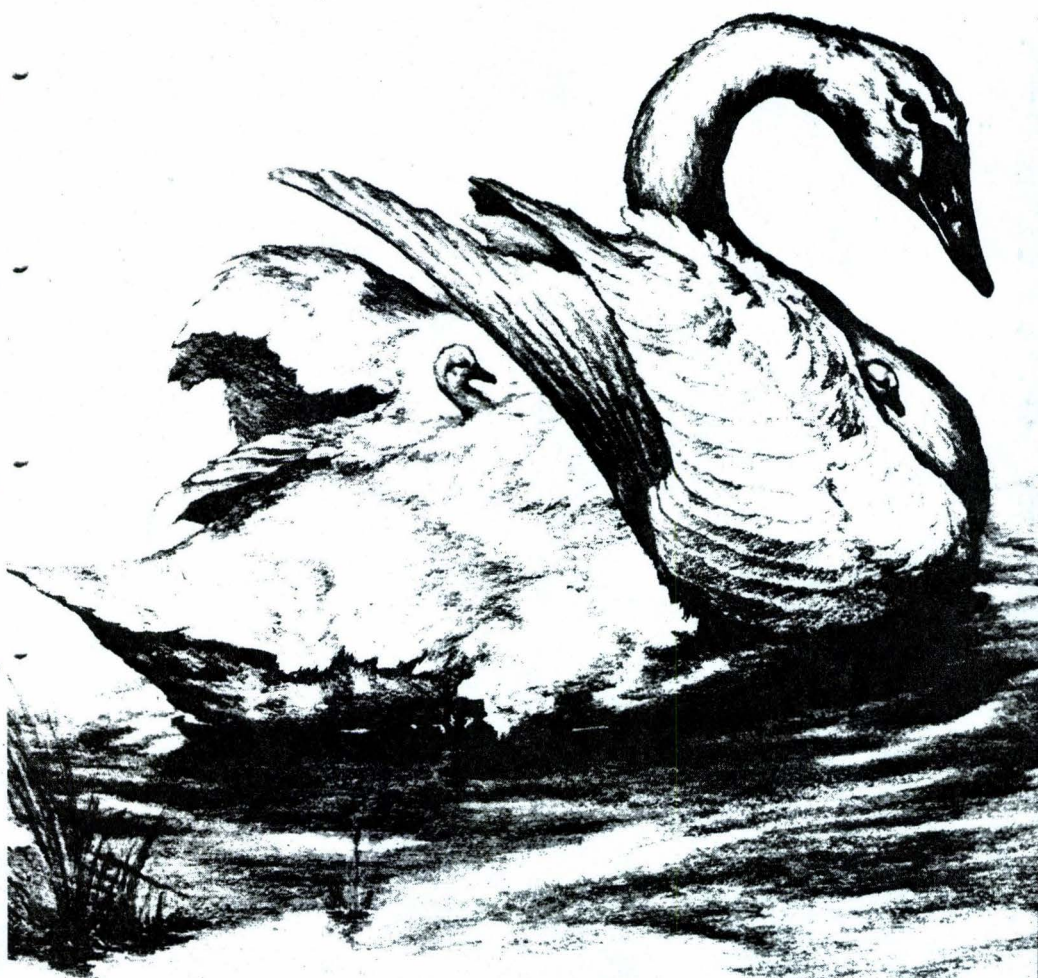


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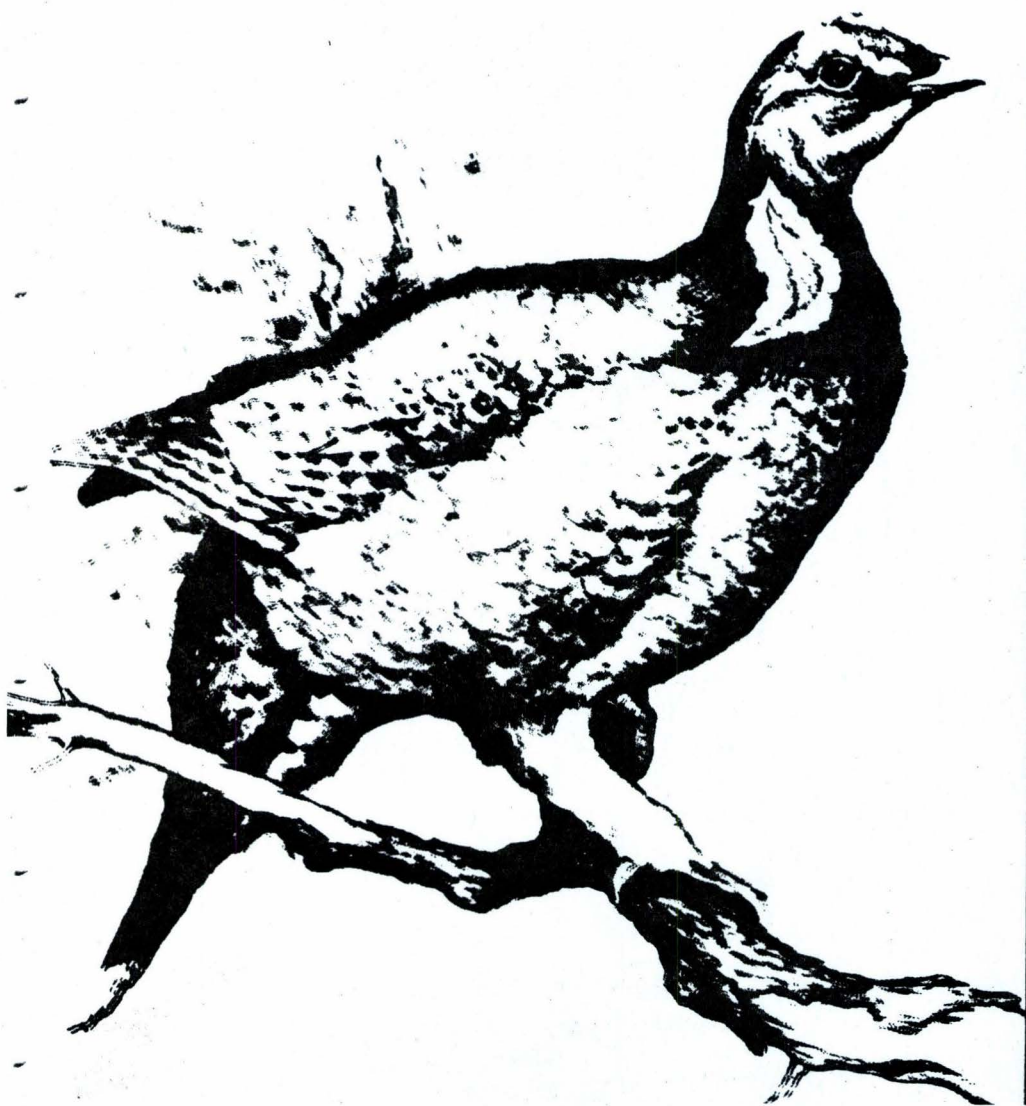
POLICY



It is the policy of the Intermountain Region to:

- 1** Manage wildlife habitat to maintain viable populations of wildlife species. The most modern management techniques will be used.
- 2** Give priority to maintaining special, unique, endangered and threatened wildlife habitats, i.e., riparian, snags, streams, reproduction areas, talus, caves, winter range, old growth timber, etc.
- 3** Consider wildlife habitat as a major Forest value in the planning process.
- 4** Support research designed to produce needed management knowledge.
- 5** Inform and involve state wildlife agencies and other Federal, state, and local governmental units and the public in wildlife habitat management.
- 6** Provide technical assistance to states and private landowners in wildlife habitat management.
- 7** Recognize wildlife habitat management needs in manpower allocations, budgeting, and planning.
- 8** Allocate land to wildlife habitat where appropriate in land management planning.
- 9** Recognize and identify, at the area and Forest planning levels, nationally or regionally significant wildlife populations.

ASSUMPTIONS



ASSUMPTIONS

- 1** The demand for both consumptive and nonconsumptive wildlife resources will increase.
- 2** Wildlife habitat in the National Forest System will become increasingly valuable.
- 3** Positive and aggressive management of wildlife habitats will substantially increase.
- 4** The need to correct unsatisfactory habitat conditions on National Forest System lands will increase.
- 5** Multiple use management will require more intense coordination between wildlife and other resources and uses of the National Forests and Grassland.
- 6** More intensive management of habitat for endangered, threatened, and unique wildlife species will be required.
- 7** Demand for more intensive control of predators and rodents adversely affecting economically important plants and animals will increase and continue to be controversial.
- 8** Anadromous and other fisheries management will require greater efforts to protect and manage spawning habitat and associated watersheds.
- 9** Direct wildlife habitat improvement projects will substantially increase in number and scope.
- 10** The need for wildlife habitat information will increase.
- 11** Significant increases in wildlife habitat funding will depend upon the use of effectiveness evaluations.
- 12** National Forests support much of the last significant reservoirs of habitat and populations for certain big game and other wide-ranging wildlife species.
- 13** Good opportunities exist on the National Forests to maintain habitats of wildlife species adversely affected by off-forest activities.
- 14** Conflicts between wildlife habitat requirements and those of other commodity resource needs will continue to increase.
- 15** Vegetative succession has resulted in a decline in habitat diversity and carrying capacity for many wildlife species.

PROGRAM





**MANAGE WILDLIFE ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
TO PROVIDE FOR OVERALL SPECIES DIVERSITY THROUGH
A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN HABITAT MANAGEMENT.**

- 1** **Develop a positive wildlife habitat management program.**
 - a** By the end of FY 1979, the Region (State and Private Forestry) will develop an action program to provide technical assistance, as requested, to states and private landowners in wildlife habitat management.
 - b** By the end of FY 1979, Forests, in cooperation with states, will implement 50 percent of current Comprehensive Wildlife Plans.
 - c** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will develop a rationale and technique for assigning site-specific wildlife management goals to individual land units.
 - d** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will provide for complete coordination between the Comprehensive Wildlife Plans with the states and Resources Planning Act targets and financing.
 - (1)** During FY 1978 and continuing, Forests will utilize Range Betterment Funds for identified wildlife habitat improvement in conjunction with range improvement projects.
 - (2)** By the end of FY 1978, Forests will have a direct Habitat improvement program initiated with attainment targets.
 - (3)** By the end of FY 1979, not less than 10 percent K-V collections (timber sales) will be used for direct wildlife habitat improvement.
 - (4)** By the End of FY 1979, the Region will establish an ongoing post-project evaluation process.
 - (5)** By the end of FY 1979, Forests will have a functional plan for aquatic ecosystems and water quality analysis.

2 Develop Manual supplements and guidelines.

- a** The Region will encourage the Washington Office to rewrite FSM 2600 by the end of FY 1979.
- b** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will develop classification standards for:

 - (1)** Aquatic habitats (including streams, lakes, and macroinvertebrates).
 - (2)** Riparian habitats.
 - (3)** Terrestrial habitats.
- c** By the end of FY 1980, the Region will adapt Wildlife Habitat Guidelines.
- d** By the end of FY 1980, the Region will develop Manual supplements for special habitats:

 - (1)** Riparian.
 - (2)** Snags
 - (3)** Aquatic.
 - (4)** Threatened, endangered, and unique wildlife species.
 - (5)** Other habitat specific wildlife species.
- e** By the end of FY 1980, the Region will develop instream flow requirements for fisheries (with G&F Departments, and S&WM).

3 Conduct inventory work needed for both management and planning.

a By the end of FY 1980, Forests and the Region will develop inventory techniques and standards and conduct an inventory of all special habitats.

(1) By the end of FY 1979, inventory old burns, identify those important for wildlife, and prescribe the necessary maintenance program.

(2) By the end of FY 1979, develop techniques and inventory habitat for threatened, endangered, and unique wildlife species.

(3) By the end of FY 1979, inventory riparian habitat utilizing valley bottom inventory technique.

(4) By the end of FY 1980, inventory deer and elk winter range.

(5) By the end of FY 1980, inventory anadromous and other fisheries habitat.

b By the end of FY 1982, Forests will complete a comprehensive wildlife habitat inventory and management plan for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Plan to include schedule of planned direct habitat improvement (Comprehensive plan with state).

4 Attain public support through an effective inform and involve program for an expanded wildlife program, with emphasis on direct habitat improvement and funding for personnel required.

a By the end of FY 1978, prepare and distribute information booklet on Region's wildlife.



IMPROVE ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING TO PROPERLY ACCOMPLISH FOREST SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT.

- 1** **Emphasize comprehensive wildlife planning.**
 - a** By the end of FY 1978, the Region will develop guidelines to establish minimum baseline wildlife habitat data needed for land management planning.
 - b** By the end of FY 1978, Forests will have direct biologist input into the development of Land Management Plans, Environmental Analysis Reports, and Environmental Statements.
 - c** By the end of FY 1978, Forests will provide for specified levels of wildlife habitat diversity in land management planning. Levels to be established for each planning unit at a percentage of optimum designed to maintain viable wildlife populations.
 - d** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will identify computerized system needs for wildlife habitat inventory and planning and will begin implementation by the end of FY 1980.
 - e** Annually, Forests will identify wildlife habitat research needs. The Region will compile identified needs into Regional priorities and coordinate with the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. By the end of FY 1979, the Region, in consultation with the Forests, will identify special research needs within riparian habitats and transmit these needs to the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.
 - f** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will establish criteria for using social science techniques such as economic models, political factors, and social values in evaluating wildlife resources.

2 Improve interagency cooperation with state wildlife agencies.

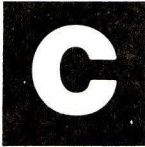
- a** By the end of FY 1978, Comprehensive Wildlife Plans will be revised.
- b** By the end of FY 1978, the Region will develop an action program to increase involvement of state wildlife agencies in National Forest management activities affecting wildlife habitat and to provide for information on items of common interest. The Forests will do the same by the end of FY 1979.

 - (1)** By the end of FY 1978, the Region and the states will develop a list of wildlife species and their habitats that are sensitive to man and his activities.
 - (2)** By the end of FY 1978, the Region and the Forests will investigate and clarify the administrative guidelines necessary for data collection, mutual assistance, and joint financing of cooperative endeavors involving the Forest Service, and private groups.
- c** Annually, the Region and the states will review and update Comprehensive Wildlife Plans and plan for cooperatively financed projects.
- d** By the end of FY 1978, the Region will finalize the Memorandum of Understanding with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and, by the end of FY 1979, will finalize with remaining states.
- e** Continue to work cooperatively with state wildlife agencies in preparation of a revision of state-wide strategic plans.

PROGRAM

3 Improve coordination among functions on Forests.

- a** By the end of FY 1978, wildlife and fishery biologists will become directly involved in formulation and implementation of wildlife habitat improvement plans on timber sales (K-V Collections) and grazing allotments (Range Betterment Fund).
- b** By the end of FY 1980, the Forests and Districts will provide wildlife staffing and expertise necessary to adequately evaluate all functional projects and activities affecting wildlife habitat. This should include field review, Environmental Analysis Report review, and followup evaluations.
- c** By the end of FY 1980, the Region will develop coordinating requirements for management of riparian habitats. By the end of FY 1981, the Forests will develop action plans for resolving conflicts between wildlife and other resources in riparian habitats.



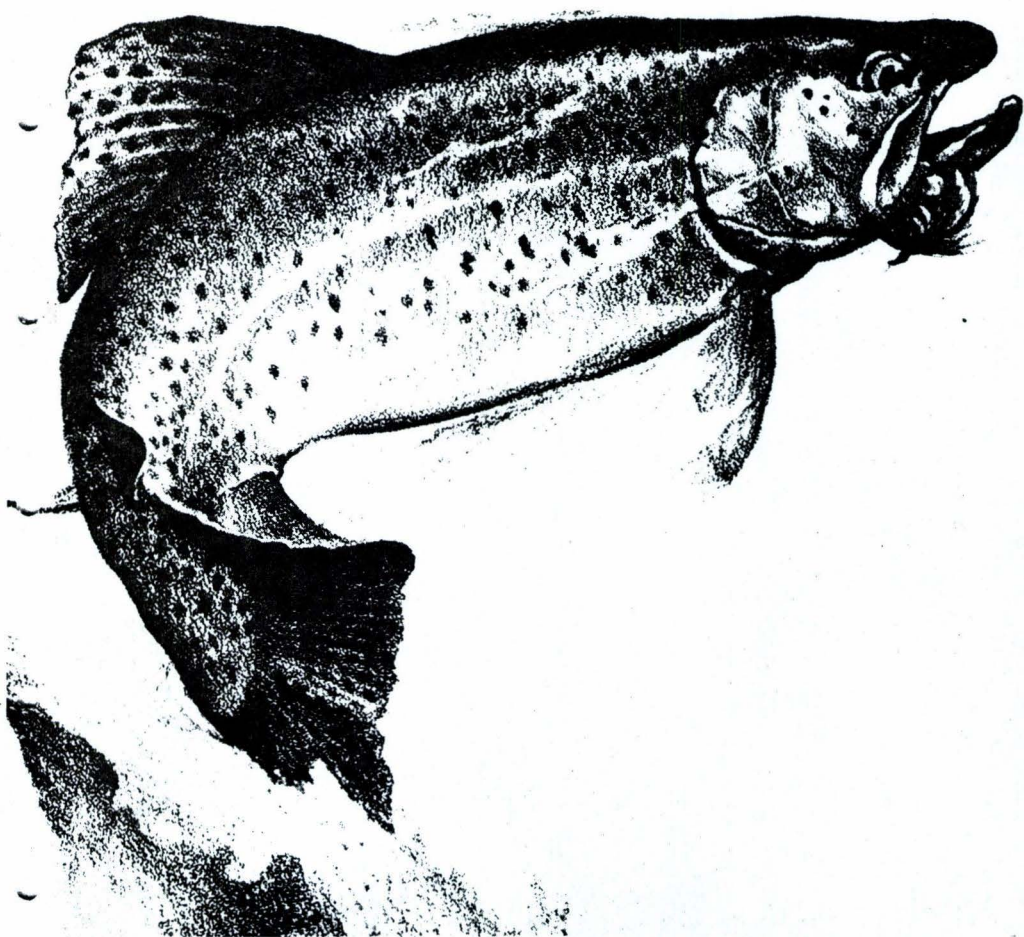
IMPROVE PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT.

- 1 Improve job mobility for wildlife professionals.**
 - a** The Region will emphasize upward mobility and man-in-job concepts for wildlife biologist staff specialists.
 - b** By the end of FY 1978, the Region will identify positions which can be classified as "interdisciplinary" so professional biologists can qualify for more positions, thus providing improved vertical career opportunities at the managerial level.
- 2 By the end of FY 1982, develop an ongoing program of specialized training in the wildlife function.**
 - a** By the end of FY 1978, the Region will initiate In-Service training programs, and Forests will encourage selected wildlife biologists to take administrative training to prepare for primary staff and line positions.
 - b** By the end of FY 1979, the Region will devise a prospective program for updating professional wildlife biologist skills within the Region. A program to accomplish this objective will be fully implemented in FY 1980.
 - c** By the end of FY 1980, the Region will develop a training plan to provide wildlife habitat training for other specialists, District Rangers, Staff, etc.
 - d** The Region and Forests both will encourage training in Systems Analysis for wildlife biologists.

PROGRAM

- 3** **Develop, within the planning and budgeting process, adequate funding for wildlife resources.**
 - a** By FY 1978, request Out-Service evaluation of the wildlife program.
 - b** By the end of FY 1980, the Chief, Region, and Forests will provide funding necessary to insure professional wildlife staffing and training positions on all Forests.
 - c** By the end of FY 1981, the Region and Forests will attain full wildlife funding as identified in Resources Planning Act Program.

APPENDIX



Regional Program

Objectives	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
A.1a. Develop S&PF Action Program.					
A.1c. Rationale and technique to assign wildlife management goals.					
A.1d. Direct habitat improvement plan tied to RPA targets' financing.					
A.1d.(4) Establish ongoing post-project evaluation process.					
A.2a. Encourage Washington Office rewrite FSM 2600 by the end of FY 1979.					
A.2b. Develop classification standards.					
A.2c. Adapt wildlife habitat guidelines.					
A.2d. Develop Manual supplements for special habitat.					
A.2e. Develop instream flow requirements for fisheries.					
A.3a. Develop inventory techniques and standards for all special habitats.					
A.4a. Regional publication on wildlife.					
B.1a. Develop guidelines to establish wildlife data for land management planning.					
B.1d. Identify ADP System needs, implementation.					
B.1e. Identify special research needs within riparian habitats.					

APPENDIX

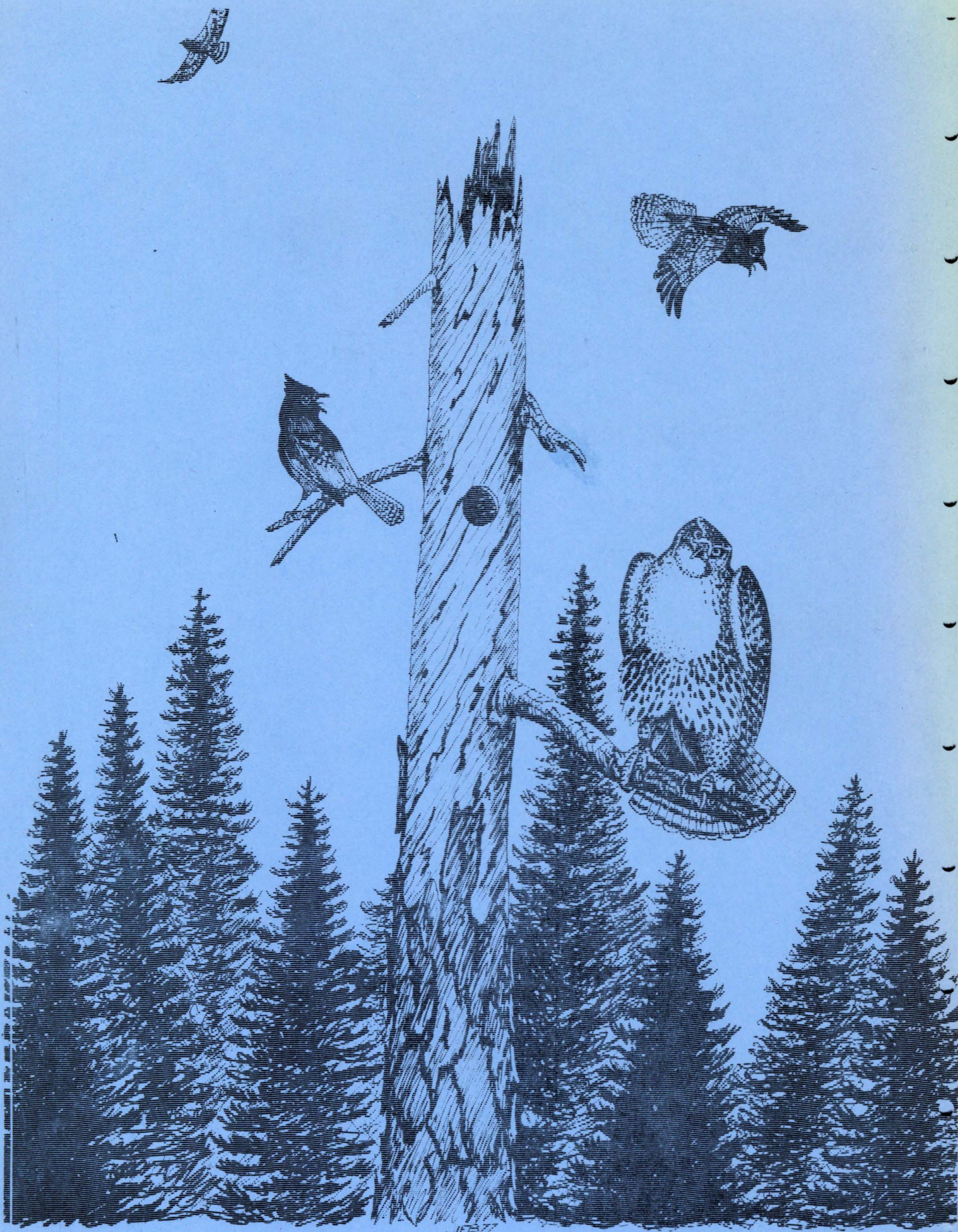
Objectives	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
B.1f. Establish criteria for using special social techniques in evaluating wildlife resources.					
B.2a. Revise Comprehensive Wildlife Plans with States.					
B.2b. Develop action program involving state wildlife agencies.					
B.2b(1). Region and states develop sensitive wildlife species list.					
B.2b(2). Investigate and clarify guidelines for data collection, mutual assistance, and joint financing of cooperative endeavors.					
B.2c. Review and update Comprehensive Wildlife Plans.					
B.2d. Finalize Memorandum of Understanding with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; finalize with remaining states.					
B.2e. Cooperative work with states on revision of state-wide strategic plans.					
B.3c. Develop requirements for riparian habitat management.					
C.1a. Upward mobility and man-in-job concepts for staff specialists.					
C.1b. Identify "interdisciplinary" positions.					
C.2a. Initiate In-Service training.					
C.2b. Devise program to update professional skills; implement.					

Objectives	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
C.2c. Plan for training other specialists in wildlife.					
C.2d. Encourage Systems Analysis training.					
C.3a. Out-Service evaluation of wildlife program.					
C.3b. Provide funding for staffing and training.					
C.3c. Attain full RPA level wildlife funding.					

Forest Program

Objectives	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
A.1b. Comprehensive Plans 50% implemented.					
A.1d(1). Utilize Range Betterment Funds for wildlife habitat improvement.					
A.1d(2). Establish acreage targets, initiate direct habitat improvement program.					
A.1d(3). 10% KV funds for wildlife habitat improvement.					
A.1d(5). Functional plans for aquatic ecosystems and water quality analysis.					
A.3a. Conduct inventory of special habitats.					
A.3a(1). Inventory old burns; prescribe maintenance program.					
A.3a(2). Inventory threatened and endangered species habitat.					
A.3a(3). Inventory riparian habitat.					
A.3a(4). Inventory deer and elk winter range.					
A.3a(5). Inventory anadromous and other fisheries habitat.					
A.3b. Wildlife habitat inventory and management plan.					
A.4. Attain public support for wildlife program.					
B.1b. Direct biologist input for LMP's, EAR's, and EIS's.					

Objectives	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
B.1c. Provide wildlife habitat diversity in land management planning.	■				
B.1e. Identify wildlife habitat research needs	■	■	■	■	■
B.2b. Develop action program involving state wildlife agencies.		■			
B.2b(2). Investigate and clarify guidelines for data collection, mutual assistance, and joint financing of cooperative endeavors.	■				
B.3a. Wildlife and fishery biologists involved in plans on timber sales, range allotments, other functional activities.	■				
B.3b. Wildlife staffing and expertise to evaluate functional projects and activities.		■	■		
B.3c. Develop action plans to resolve wildlife and other resource conflicts in riparian habitat.				■	
C.2a. Encourage In-Service training.	■	■	■	■	■
C.2d. Encourage Systems Analysis training.	■	■	■	■	■
C.3b. Provide funding for staffing and training.			■		
C.3c. Attain full RPA level wildlife funding.			■	■	



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